

NORTHAMPTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of Medical Officer of Health for the year 1923.



MAY, 1924.

To the Chairman and Members of the Northampton Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my REPORT for the year 1923.

The area of the district is 16,218 acres.

The population for 1923 is 7,666. For 1922 the population was 7,513.

The number of inhabited houses for 1921 was 1,669, and 1,741 for 1922. The estimated number for 1923 is 1,762.

The number of families or separate occupiers for 1921 was 1,774.

The rateable value of the district is £45,812. A sum represented by a penny rate is £191.

BIRTHS—Total 141 (74 males and 67 females). Illegitimate births 3 (1 male and 2 females). The births make a ratio of 18·3 per 1,000 of population. The ratio for last year was 20·2 per 1,000 of population and the total births were 152. For England and Wales the birth-rate is 19·7 per 1,000 of population.

DEATHS—Total 74 (30 males, 44 females). Making a ratio of 9·6 per 1,000 of population. For England and Wales the death-rate is 11·6 per 1,000 of population.

Deaths under 1 year total 9 (2 males and 7 females). No illegitimate children died. This is equal to 63 deaths per 1,000 births. 3 of these children died from Congenital Debility and Malformation. One died from Bronchitis and one from Diarrhœa and Sickness. There was also one death from Whooping Cough. No young babies died from Measles, Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever or Enteric Fever.

For the whole district and Berry Wood the following are the ages of the people who died, but no allowance has been made for transferable deaths :—Under 1 year 7 deaths, 2 years old 1, 5 years old 2, 10 years 1, 20 years 8, 30 years 7, 40 years 10, 50 years 22, 60 years 20, 70 years 32, 80 years 14.

The figures for the district without Berry Wood are :—7 under 1 year, 2 years old 1, 5 years 1, 20 years 3, 30 years 1, 40 years 2, 50 years 8, 60 years 11, 70 years 15, 80 years 11.

There were no women dying in or in consequence of childbirth.

There was 1 death from Enteric Fever accompanied by Pneumonia, Influenza 2 deaths, Tuberculosis of Lungs, 3 males; Cancer, 4 males and 5 females—this number is about the same for the last few years. 1 male and 4 females died from Cerebral Hæmorrhage, 4 males and 3 females from Heart Disease, 5 males and 5 females from Bronchitis, 2 males and 5 females from Pneumonia.

The deaths from Bronchitis and Pneumonia show quite a marked increase. 2 males and 3 females died from Kidney Disease.

There was one case of suicide from Harpole by drowning in a well, one case of suicide from Weston Favell, also by drowning. One patient from Berry Wood accidentally got a horse chestnut lodged in her lungs and died from Gangrene of the Lungs.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR :—

Small Pox, none ; Diphtheria, 3 ; Scarlet Fever 11, of these two were removed to the hospital at Hardingstone. Emeric Fever 9, one case at Weston Favell was treated at the General Hospital. There were eight cases at Berry Wood including one nurse. A special report is included of the cases at Berry Wood. Puerperal Fever 1 case, Pneumonia 13, Chicken Pox 9, Tuberculosis of Lungs in Northampton District 7. One was notified to me by the Registrar as having died, but had not been notified to me before. The ages of these people were 21, 22, 24, 28, 30, 37, 44.

At Berry Wood there were eight cases of Tuberculosis of the Lungs and one case of Tuberculosis elsewhere, aged 51. The ages of the eight cases were 9, 12, 22, 47, 47, 48, 50, 59. One of these cases was notified by the Registrar only, as having died.

Three males died from Tuberculosis of the Lungs. There were no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

SCHOOL CLOSURES :—

Dallington ...	...	February	...	3 weeks	...	Influenza and Measels
New Duston...	...	January	...	3 „	...	Measles
Duston ...	...	February	...	3 „	...	Influenza and Measles
Great Billing	...	June	...	3 „	...	Measles

The following report on the outbreak of Enteric Fever at Berry Wood Mental Hospital was asked for by the Ministry of Health. I am indebted to Dr. H. T. Jones, Chief Assistant Medical Officer, for these details.

The present epidemic commenced in June, 1923. Previously there had been no case since a nurse in January, 1922. She had been on a holiday in Ireland and it was assumed at the time she had contracted the disease there.

Two cases were notified in June from the same Ward D. These, when convalescent, after repeated examinations of stools and urine, were sent back to Ward B, which is the Ward where all the convalescent enterics had been sent. In September another case occurred in this Ward, and it was then found that one of the previous cases was a carrier. She was promptly isolated. In October a nurse who had been engaged in nursing these patients at the Isolation Hospital contracted Enteric, presumably by direct contact. One more case occurred during November from D S Ward, the next Ward to the one from which the two earliest cases came. During December there were five cases, two from D Ward, two from A Ward and one boy from E Ward, the airing court of which adjoins that of D. To date in January, there have been five cases among the patients, two of which have been from D Ward and two from A. Also, in January, one nurse contracted the disease. This nurse had not been nursing Typhoid patients. There have been two deaths, both of patients, one from Hæmorrhage and the other who was suffering from Pnenmonia in addition to Enteric.

Routine examination of stools and urine of female patients is being undertaken at present. It has been completed for the Wards D, A, E, and and several carriers discovered. These have been promptly isolated. To the present ten carriers have been isolated, including one member of the staff.

Inoculation is taking place as soon as the routine of the excreta is completed. The patients in both D and D S have received two inoculations, and all patients in Ward A have received one inoculation.

This report has been completed up to January 30, 1924. From time to time a case or two of Enteric has cropped up in Berry Wood, and no doubt these routine examinations and inoculations will go a long way towards preventing further cases developing.

There was an outbreak of Anthrax among the workers at Stimpson Brothers' Chrome Tannery, Abington Mill. Dr. McCrindle, M.O.H. for Northampton, very kindly forwarded the notifications on to me: the men affected all living in the town and being treated at the Northampton General Hospital. There were six cases in all. The cause of the outbreak being due to the handling of Chinese hides. The first two men affected worked in a party of three

in the lime tanks, where the hair was removed from the hides. There was a doubt in my mind whether these men had used the rubber gloves they were supposed to have used. On visiting the factory I found it exceedingly well kept, light and airy, with very little of the smell associated with tanning. The drainage, after passing through septic tanks, is passed into the Northampton Town sewer which runs close by. Possibly this is one of the causes of cases of Anthrax in cattle on the Sewage Farm. There was one case there last year; one other case occurred at Upper Heyford Mill.

No provision is made by the Council for nursing cases in the District. Each village or adjacent villages subscribe to the County Nursing Association for a nurse. All who have subscribed are entitled to her services during the year whenever required. She does maternity cases as well, and as a midwife is under the authority of the County Council. For infectious disease no nursing arrangements in the home have been made by the Council. The Medical Officer of Health can, if necessary, call in a nurse, with the authority of the County Medical Officer of Health, from the Northamptonshire District Nursing Association, for measles cases. When possible these nurses, if measles are not very prevalent, can be used for special cases of Whooping Cough and Diarrhoea in young children, and in cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum. Cases of Tuberculosis, if found suitable, are treated at Rushden Sanatorium. Urgent maternity cases, children, and any emergency cases of any nature are sent to the Northampton General Hospital for treatment, where they are admitted and are required to get an in-patient letter.

The Council do not possess an Isolation Hospital. They have an agreement with the Hardingstone Rural District Council whereby they can, if room is available, send their fever cases to the Hardingstone Fever Hospital, but not Small Pox cases. An agreement has been considered with the Rural Districts of Daventry and Brixworth in case of an outbreak of Small Pox, in which case Brixworth Fever Hospital would be used for Small Pox cases from all three districts, and the Brixworth Fever patients would be taken to Daventry Rural District Fever Hospital. This appears to be a good working scheme, not involving any expense to the three Councils unless an outbreak occurs.

There are no Ambulance facilities in the district. The Hardingstone Fever Ambulance is used for the removal of Fever cases. General cases requiring removal to Northampton Hospital or elsewhere are taken by motor or the Motor Ambulance from Northampton.

All Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are undertaken by the Pathological Department at the Northampton General Hospital.

The remainder of this Report is based upon a Report submitted to me by the Sanitary Inspector (Mr. G. WILCOX).

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS. There are at present 40 registered Dairies and Cowsheds in the District, an increase of two during the year. 64 Inspections were made and six informal notices served, all *re* limewashing. These were complied with.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES. The number of places where slaughtering is done is the same as last year, six. Ten inspections were made, two informal notices served *re* limewashing; these were complied with. In addition to the above, calls are often made when it is thought slaughtering is going on. No unhealthy carcasses were surrendered or found. A good proportion of the meat consumed in the district comes through wholesalers in Northampton and is under the supervision of the town Inspectors.

BAKEHOUSES. There are seven bakehouses used for baking bread: the same as last year. These are only quite small places, generally employing one person. Six inspections were made, one informal notice served *re* limewashing, this was complied with. There are not any underground bakehouses.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS. There are five factories in the district. Four inspections were made, no notices were served. There are four workshops employing more than two persons. Six inspections were made, no notices were served. In addition to the above, there are a number of small workplaces such as blacksmith's shops, carpenter's shops, and out-worker's shops in the boot trade, generally used by one person and never more than two. These are inspected from time to time when making periodical inspections of the District.

NUISANCES UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

		Nuisances Found.		Informal Notices		Statutory Notices
Insanitary Closets and Ashpits	...	22	...	22	...	—
Insufficient Closet Accommodation	...	4	...	4	...	—
Defective and Choked Drains	...	8	...	8	...	—
Defective Roofs	...	2	...	2	...	—
Animals improperly kept	...	1	...	1	...	—
Defective Paving	...	1	...	1	...	—

DISINFECTION. Twelve houses have been disinfected during the year. Six after cases of Scarlet Fever, three after cases of Phthisis, two after cases of Diphtheria, one after case of Enteric Fever.

DRAIN TESTING AND INSPECTIONS. Ninety visits have been made to various properties to test drains, chiefly to new houses being built or alterations to existing houses.

WATER SUPPLIES. The villages of Duston, Dallington and Weston Favell are supplied by mains from Northampton. Nether Heyford and Kislingbury have public supplies of their own. Little Billing and Upton are supplied by pipes from private supplies. The remainder of the villages are supplied by wells, the majority of which are shallow ones. There has not been any shortage on any of the public or private supplies, and no cases reported of any of the wells going dry.

SEWAGE SCHEMES. These have been working satisfactorily. Owing to the greater number of houses drained on the Duston Scheme, a larger area of land for irrigation has been brought into use.

SCAVENGING. A weekly collection of the contents of Pail Closets is made in the villages of Bugbrooke and Nether Heyford, and twice weekly in the village of Dallington. A weekly collection of household refuse is made at Weston Favell. A quarterly collection of indestructible refuse is made in each of the other villages.

PLANS. Plans were passed during the year for four Bungalows and 49 Houses; also alterations to the Horseshoe Inn, Weston Favell, and Stonehouse, Dallington, on the Harlestone Road, and a new School Church at Abington. Of these, 26 Houses and one Bungalow could be described as working-class dwellings.

HOUSING :—

Number of new houses erected during 1923	...	...	...	...	31
As part of Municipal Housing Scheme	...	...	...	...	—
Unfit dwelling houses (Inspections)	...	...	...	...	—
Total number of houses inspected for housing defects	...	...	...	...	36
Number of houses inspected and recorded under Housing Regulations of 1910	...	...	...	...	—
Number of houses found to be so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	—
Number of houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	—
Remedy of defects without service of formal notice	...	...	...	...	—
Number of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	...	...	...	...	—

PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS :—

Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	10
Number of houses in respect of which defects were remedied by owners	...	...	...	...	10
By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	—

PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 17 AND 18 OF HOUSING & TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909 :—

Number of representations made with a view to the making of a closing order	...	—
Number of houses in respect of which closing orders were made	...	—
Houses voluntarily closed	... ..	—
Number of houses in respect of which closing orders were determined, the houses		
having been rendered fit	... ..	—

No demolition orders were served.

Four houses at Nether Heyford were demolished without an order being made.

NUMBERS OF THE COUNCIL'S SUBSIDISED HOUSES OCCUPIED :—

Weston Favell	...	...	50	out of	50
Duston	...	...	50	„	50
Dallington	...	...	20	„	20
Kislingbury	...	...	6	„	6
Great Billing	...	...	6	„	6
			<u>132</u>	„	<u>132</u>

Built by Northampton Corporation in Weston Favell Parish in the Rural District :—

122 houses—all occupied.

14 huts—all occupied.

Yours faithfully,

H. F. PERCIVAL.

